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Group Art Unit: 1744

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend paragraphs [0001], [0002], [0025], [0032], [0038], [0040], [0045], and [0047] as shown below:

[0001] The invention relates to extraction cleaners. In one of its aspects, the invention relates to a portable extraction cleaner that is adapted to be hand carried by a user to carpeted areas of cleaning relatively small areas, such as small rugs and upholstery. In another of its aspects, the invention relates to a portable extraction cleaner that is easy to use. In another of its aspects, the invention relates to a portable extraction cleaner having a clean air extraction system with improved noise reduction. In another of its aspects, the invention relates to a portable extraction cleaner with drop-in clean solution and recovery tanks for ease of operation and servicing. In yet another of its aspects, the invention relates to a portable extraction cleaner with an improved electric cord management. In yet another of its aspects, the invention relates to a well-balanced portable extraction cleaner that is easy to hand carry from place to place by a user.

[0002] Portable extraction cleaners are disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,910,828 to Blase et al., issued March 27, 1990, in U.S. Patent No. 6,108,860 to Crouser et al., issued August 29, 2000, in U.S. Patent No. 5,799,362 to Huffman, issued September 1, 1998, and U.S. Patent No. 5,735,017 to Barnes et al., issued April 7, 1998. Each of these extractions cleaners has a canister housing that is adapted to be carried by a user for cleaning relatively small areas of a floor or upholstery surface. The size of these cleaners is particularly suitable for cleaning stairs, for example, as well as small soiled areas of carpet. Each of these cleaners has a cleaning solution delivery system to apply cleaning solution to a surface to be cleaned and a fluid recovery system for recovering soiled cleaning solution from the surface to be cleaned both of which include a hose that is attached to the canister housing at one end and to a cleaning tool at another end.

[0025] Referring to FIGS. 1-5, a portable extraction cleaner according to the invention comprises a main housing assembly 102, a recovery tank assembly 104 and a clean solution tank assembly 106. The main housing assembly 102 comprises a housing base 110 and first and second shell

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halves 112, 114. The recovery tank assembly 104 is principally contained within a recovery tank 232 having integrally molded handgrip indentations 236. In a preferred embodiment, main housing assembly 102 is formed of an opaque material, but can be formed of a translucent or transparent material. The recovery tank 232 ~~and the clean solution tank 270~~ can be formed of a transparent or tinted translucent material for user viewing of the contents of the tanks.

[0032] First conduit 372 includes a recovered fluid port 202 open to the interior of the recovery tank 232 and is fluidly connected to suction hose 400 of the portable extraction cleaner through a recovery tank fluid port 152 when mounted on the portable extraction cleaner. ~~A~~ The second conduit 374 includes a suction port 204 and is fluidly connected to ~~the an~~ impeller compartment 148 through a suction plenum 330 when the recovery tank assembly 104 is mounted on the portable extraction cleaner.

[0038] With particular reference to FIGS. 5-7, the air/liquid separator assembly 200 compresses the air/liquid separator seal 214 against ~~a the~~ recovery tank fluid port 152 and a recovery tank suction port 154 integrally formed in the housing base 110. The recovery tank fluid port 152 is sealingly connected to the first conduit 372 and the recovery tank suction port 154 is sealingly connected to the second conduit 374.

[0040] The clean solution tank assembly 106 comprises a clean solution tank 270 having integrally molded handgrip indentations 274. The clean solution tank assembly 106 is aligned and retained on the main housing assembly 102 by vertically sliding an integrally formed recess in the clean solution tank 270 over the clean solution tank guide rails 168, 256 integrally formed in the housing shell halves 112, 114. Clean solution tank assembly 106 is thus mounted on main housing assembly 102 and housing base 110 in a linear fashion with no rotation or pivoting of assembly 106 required. The clean solution tank 270 can be formed of a transparent or a translucent material for customer viewing.

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[0045] A suction motor 116 with an attached impeller assembly 118 is positioned in a central portion of the base 110 comprising a the suction impeller enclosure 148. The central placement of the suction motor 116 and impeller assembly 118 within the cleaner provides an optimal carrying balance for the user by placing the weight of the elements directly below the integrally mounted handle. A ring-type seal 120 seals a lower surface of the impeller 118 within the impeller enclosure 148. An impeller enclosure seal 122 seals a top portion of the impeller assembly 118 on the impeller enclosure 148 so as to isolate the impeller enclosure 148 from the suction motor 116. The suction motor 116 and impeller assembly 118 are held in place by the suction motor enclosure 126 secured to the impeller enclosure 148. Fasteners (not shown) are passed through ears 124 to secure the suction motor enclosure 126 to the impeller enclosure 148. A gasket 128 and suction motor enclosure 130 enclose the motor 116.

[0047] Referring now to FIGS. 6-7, when power is applied to the motor 116, it drives impeller 118 to generate a suction force in impeller inlet chamber 340. The impeller inlet chamber 340 is fluidly connected to the interior of recovery tank 232 through suction plenum 330 and second conduit 374. The interior of recovery tank 232 is further fluidly connected to a the flexible suction hose 400 and cleaning tool 410 through first conduit 372, duckbill valve 216 and fluid recovery conduit 164.